

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 CCO-00 EUR-12 NSC-05
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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JORDWAY:SP
APPROVED BY S/PRS:JORDWAY
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
-----291827Z 030710 /44
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 069305 TOSEC 030076

FOR THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF HODDING CARTER (FROM S/PRS)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: MARVIN KALB, CBS RADIO, FIRST LINE REPORT

NO. 6

HEREWITH FULL TEXT OF MARVIN KALB.

BEGIN TEXT: BRZEZINSKI AND VANCE--THE SPECULATION HAS
ALREADY BEGUN.

SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE IS NEGOTIATING WITH
SOVIET LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV IN MOSCOW. THE TALKS BEGAN
YESTERDAY, WITH BREZHNEV LECTURING VANCE ABOUT PRESIDENT
CARTER'S CONTROVERSIAL STANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE LEC-
TURE WAS NOT UNEXPECTED. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NEWS ONLY
IF BREZHNEV HAD DECIDED TO DISPENSE WITH THE LECTURE.
THE POINT HERE IS SIMPLY TO STATE THE OBVIOUS, THAT VANCE
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IS 5,000 MILES OR MORE AWAY FROM WASHINGTON CONDUCTING
THE NATION'S BUSINESS IN A CRITICAL AREA, OPERATING ON
AN APPARENTLY SHORT LEASH. THIS ADMINISTRATION IS INTENT
ON ASSERTING PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY AND LEADERSHIP IN
FOREIGN POLICY, EXORCISING THE GHOST OF HENRY KISSINGER.
VANCE, WHO CAME TO THIS JOB WITH A REPUTATION OF BEING
AN EXCELLENT LAWYER AND TEAM PLAYER, IS UNLIKELY TO GO

BEYOND HIS BRIEF WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING WITH MR. CARTER, OR IF THE PRESIDENT IS BUSY, WITH HIS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI.

THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT BRZEZINSKI WOULD GIVE ORDERS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE WITHOUT THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION TO THE PRESIDENT AND FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE BUREAUCRACY. HIS CLOSENESS TO MR. CARTER, GROWING OUT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF HIS JOB, GIVES HIM CONSIDERABLE POWER. BY MOVING TO ASSERT PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP IN FOREIGN POLICY, THE WHITE HOUSE NATURALLY

BECOMES THE CENTER OF THE ACTION. THAT'S WHERE THE PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN JODY POWELL MAKES PROCLAMATIONS ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY. THAT'S THE PRESIDENTIAL PULPIT, IN EFFECT, WHERE MR. CARTER HIMSELF DISCUSSES ALL ASPECTS OF POLICY. THAT IS MORE THAN AN EXERCISE IN PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSIBILITY; IT IS ALSO MR. CARTER'S STYLE. THAT MEANS THAT THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MUST BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE NOT ONLY LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT ALSO IMMEDIATE GUIDANCE ON THE ISSUES IN THE MORNING HEADLINES. THAT CHANGES THE NATURE OF THE NSC OPERATION, AT LEAST AS EARLIER ENVISAGED BY BRZEZINSKI.

IN ADDITION, BECAUSE THIS PRESIDENT SPEAKS SO OFTEN ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS, BECAUSE HE HAS PERSONALIZED HIS POLICY, FOREIGN DIPLOMATS PUZZLED ON OCCASION BY WHAT HE HAS SAID, NEED CLARIFICATION. AND THEY HAVE COME TO THE BELIEF THAT THEY CAN GET IT FROM BRZEZINSKI MORE UNCLASSIFIED

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AUTHORITATIVELY THAN ANYONE ELSE. AND, IF IT'S NOT A DIPLOMAT BUT A REPORTER WHO WANTS AN EXPLANATION, HE CAN CALL BRZEZINSKI'S PRESS MAN JERROLD SCHECTER, A VETERAN DIPLOMATIC REPORTER WHO HAS ACHIEVED HIGH VISIBILITY AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE NSC, AND AS ONE WHO HELPS JODY POWELL.

THIS IS ALL IN THE WAY OF THE EXERCISE OF WHITE HOUSE POWER, AND IT IS A NATURAL EXTENSION OF THE PRESIDENT'S STYLE. IT IS NOT A CABAL OUT TO CUT INTO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S POWER, NOT, SO FAR AS ANYONE CAN TELL AT THIS POINT, THE DESIRE OF BRZEZINSKI TO PULL A POWER PLAY ON VANCE. IN FACT, SOMEONE WHO SHOULD KNOW ONCE SAID THAT KISSINGER DID NOT ACTUALLY SEEK TO ACQUIRE ALL THAT POWER AND UNDERCUT THEN SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS; IT JUST FELL INTO HIS LAP FOR TWO REASONS--NIXON WANTED TO RUN FOREIGN POLICY OUT OF THE WHITE HOUSE, AND ROGERS DID NOT WORK HARD ENOUGH.

VANCE, BY CONTRAST, IS NO INNOCENT IN FOREIGN POLICY. HE WORKS VERY HARD, AND HE HAS THE PRESIDENT'S FULL CONFIDENCE. MOREOVER, HE HAS KNOWN BRZEZINSKI AND DEFENSE SECRETARY HAROLD BROWN ON A PERSONAL BASIS, ALL MEMBERS OF THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION WHO HAVE SHARED MANY OF THE SAME VIEWS. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, VANCE IS UNLIKELY TO FALL EASY VICTIM TO BUREAUCRATIC POLITICS OR PRESIDENTIAL STYLE. CHRISTOPHER

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Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, US, UR, CBS-RADIO, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (KALB, MARVIN)
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